

BrainBuzz Academy

UPSC Current Affairs - 5-Feb-25

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International Relations

Bart De Wever Sworn in as Belgium's New Prime Minister



Why in the News?

On February 3, 2025, Belgium witnessed a historic political shift as Bart De Wever, leader of the New Flemish Alliance (N-VA), was sworn in as the country's new Prime Minister. This marks the first time a Flemish nationalist has assumed Belgium's highest political office. After over eight months of coalition talks, a new government was formed, comprising five political parties: N-VA, Christian Democrats (CD&V), socialists (Vooruit), liberals (MR), and centrists (Les Engagés). Known as the "Arizona" coalition, this alliance now commands a majority in Belgium's 150-seat federal parliament.

Key Takeaways

First Flemish Nationalist PM: Bart De Wever's appointment represents a significant political shift in Belgium.

New Coalition Government: A five-party coalition was formed after extensive negotiations.

Major Policy Changes Expected:

Stricter Immigration Policies: Limiting access to unemployment benefits for newcomers until they have lived in Belgium for five years.

Reversal of Nuclear Phase-Out: Plans to build new nuclear reactors to boost energy security.

Increased Defense Spending: Budget allocation for defense to rise from 1.3% of GDP to 2.5% by 2034.

Challenges for the New Government:

Gender Representation: Out of 15 cabinet members, only three are women.

Economic Concerns: Addressing a national debt exceeding 100% of GDP.

Do You Know?

Belgium is a federal state with three main regions: Flanders, Wallonia, and Brussels.

The Arizona coalition name comes from a political strategy used in Belgium, symbolizing ideological

balance.

Bart De Wever's party, N-VA, has long advocated for greater autonomy for Flanders.

Belgium has one of the highest taxation rates in Europe, a key point of debate in the new government.

Static Points about Belgium

Capital: Brussels – home to the European Union headquarters.

Government: Parliamentary democracy and constitutional monarchy.

Monarch: King Philippe.

Official Languages: Dutch, French, German.

Economy:

Major industries: Automobiles, chemicals, food processing.

Exports: Diamonds, machinery, pharmaceuticals.

Cultural Significance:

Known for Belgian chocolates, waffles, and beer.

Hosts famous music festivals like Tomorrowland.

Conclusion

Bart De Wever's appointment as Belgium's Prime Minister signifies a major political transformation. His leadership will shape policies on immigration, energy, and defense, impacting both domestic and international relations. As Belgium navigates economic challenges and political reforms, De Wever's tenure will be closely watched, especially as the nation plays a crucial role within the European Union and global affairs.

National



Why in the News?

Maharashtra is set to establish India's first dedicated Artificial Intelligence (AI) university, marking a significant advancement in the country's education and technology sectors. The Universal AI University, located in Karjat near Mumbai, will serve as a hub for AI-focused education, research, and innovation. This initiative aims to position Maharashtra as a leader in AI education and foster collaboration between academia, industry, and government.

Key Takeaways

Inception and Vision:

Founded in 2009 as Universal Business School, it transitioned into Universal AI University in 2023.

The university offers undergraduate, postgraduate, and doctoral programs integrating AI into their curriculum.

Leadership:

In June 2024, Dr. Simon Mak, an international strategist and award-winning professor, was appointed as Vice-Chancellor.

His leadership is expected to enhance the university's academic programs, research initiatives, and global partnerships.

Innovative Admissions Process:

The university has implemented a Metaverse and AI-based admissions process, utilizing optimization algorithms and virtual companions to assess candidates.

Applicants choose digital avatars to represent themselves during the process, guided by an AI virtual companion named Droid.

Do You Know?

Eco-Friendly Campus:

The university spans 40 acres in Karjat, with over 10,000 trees and sports facilities, including a football ground.

It uses solar power for 50% of its electricity needs, emphasizing sustainability.

AI in Education:

AI is increasingly being integrated into higher education worldwide, transforming learning methods, research, and administrative processes.

Several global universities are adopting AI-driven courses and technologies, placing India on the global AI education map with this initiative.

Static Points about AI

Definition:

Artificial Intelligence (AI) refers to machines programmed to think and learn like humans, performing tasks such as speech recognition, decision-making, and problem-solving.

Applications of AI:

Healthcare – AI assists in diagnosing diseases, robotic surgeries, and personalized treatments.

Finance – AI enhances fraud detection, stock market predictions, and risk management.

Education – AI facilitates personalized learning, virtual tutors, and automated grading systems.

Transport – AI is used in self-driving cars, smart traffic management, and logistics optimization.

Global AI Initiatives:

Leading countries, including the US, China, and the EU, are investing heavily in AI research to enhance technological innovation and economic growth.

India has introduced several AI-based policies to promote research, development, and industry collaborations.

Conclusion

The launch of India's first AI university in Maharashtra is a transformative step in the country's educational and technological landscape. By integrating AI across disciplines, the Universal AI University aims to nurture a new generation of AI professionals ready to lead in an AI-driven world. This initiative not only expands AI education and research opportunities but also strengthens India's position as a key player in the global AI industry.

Science and Technology

Aero India 2025





Why in the news?

Aero India 2025, Asia's premier aerospace exhibition, is scheduled to take place from February 10 to 14, 2025, at the Air Force Station, Yelahanka in Bengaluru, Karnataka. The event, themed "The Runway to a Billion Opportunities," aims to showcase India's advancements in aerospace and defence sectors while fostering international collaborations.

Key Takeaways

Event Highlights: The five-day show will feature aerial displays, static exhibitions of military platforms, and significant events such as the Defence Ministers' Conclave, CEOs' Round-Table, and the iDEX start-up event.

International Participation: Notably, the United States Air Force is expected to participate, showcasing two F-16 and two F-35 fighter jets.

Indigenous Focus: The event will emphasize India's self-reliance in defence manufacturing, aligning with the 'Atmanirbhar Bharat' initiative.

Do You Know?

Aero India is a biennial event organized by the Defence Exhibition Organisation, under the Department of Defence Production, Ministry of Defence.

The 2023 edition of Aero India attracted participation from over 80 countries, highlighting its global significance.

Static Points about Aero India Show

Inception: The first Aero India show was held in 1996, establishing it as a significant event in the aerospace and defense sectors.

Venue: Traditionally hosted at the Air Force Station in Yelahanka, Bengaluru, the event provides a platform for both national and international aerospace industries to showcase their products and services.

Frequency: Held biennially, Aero India serves as a convergence point for industry leaders, policymakers, and defense personnel to explore partnerships and advancements in aerospace technology.

Aero India 2025 is poised to be a landmark event, reflecting India's growing capabilities in aerospace and defense, and its commitment to fostering international cooperation in these sectors.

Awards

Tshego Gaelae Makes History as First Black Mrs World 2025



Why in the News?

Tshego Gaelae, a native of Soweto, has made history by becoming the first Black woman to be crowned Mrs World 2025. The 34-year-old attorney and reigning Mrs South Africa 2024 secured her

crowned Mrs World 2025. The 34-year-old attorney and reigning Mrs South Africa 2024 secured her victory at the grand finale in Las Vegas. Gaelae's win is a groundbreaking achievement in the pageant's 40-year history and a moment of pride for South Africa. She follows in the footsteps of Candice Abrahams, the only other South African to win the title in 2016. Gaelae has pledged to use her platform to advocate for women's empowerment and global representation.

Key Takeaways

Historic Achievement: Tshego Gaelae is the first Black woman to win the Mrs World title and the second South African after Candice Abrahams in 2016.

Grand Finale Highlights:

Gaelae stunned in an elegant white dress with beadwork and embroidery by South African designer Claris by Gerrit Pienaar.

Impressed judges with her poise, intelligence, warmth, and advocacy work.

Became emotional as she received the prestigious Mrs World crown.

Advocacy and Mission:

Committed to women's empowerment and supporting underprivileged women.

Advocates for the voiceless and champions mentorship for aspiring women.

Professional and Personal Life:

A qualified attorney and Group B-BBEE & Labour Relations Manager.

Runs a successful legal education YouTube channel, 'My Lawyer's Corner'.

A devoted wife and mother, balancing family life with her advocacy efforts.

Do You Know?

The Mrs World pageant has been running for over 40 years, celebrating the accomplishments of married women worldwide.

Candice Abrahams became the first South African to win the title in 2016.

The Mrs World crown is a symbol of leadership, empowerment, and social impact.

Gaelae's advocacy work includes mentorship programs, legal support for women, and uplifting marginalized communities.

Static Points about Mrs South Africa

Mrs South Africa Pageant: A prestigious competition that recognizes married women for their achievements, confidence, and contributions to society.

Purpose: To empower South African women and provide them with a global platform for advocacy and leadership.

Notable Winners:

Candice Abrahams (2016) – First South African to win Mrs World.

Tshego Gaelae (2025) – First Black woman to win Mrs World.

Impact: Many winners use their titles to drive social change, particularly in the fields of education, women's rights, and empowerment initiatives.

Conclusion

Tshego Gaelae's victory at Mrs World 2025 is a defining moment for South Africa and global pageantry. Her success is not only a historic milestone but also a testament to the power of women's empowerment and mentorship. As she embarks on her global tour, Gaelae aims to inspire women worldwide, reinforcing her belief that "sisterhood means taking a purposeful role in the success of others."